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Executive Registry
64-3182

4 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: "The Invisible Government"

1. On behalf of the Clandestine Services, I would like to vote in favor of stopping the publication of "The Invisible Government" if a means can be found to achieve this.

2. This book is a classic case of the whole being a far more damaging security erosion than the individual parts which compose it. Soviet intelligence might be able to compile this kind of compendium out of individual items which have appeared in print, but they would not have access to those knowledgeable individuals in Washington who have contributed to the mortar between the bricks. Mr. Chretien's report to you will bear this opinion, I feel sure.

3. From page 6 of the book, I have extracted the two paragraphs which appear below. To those of us who work in the clandestine field, this philosophy is equivalent to saying that our activities should not exist:


"This book is an attempt, within the bounds of national security, to reveal the nature, size and power of the Invisible Government. It is not intended to be an expose, although much of the material has never been printed anywhere else before. It is an attempt to describe a hidden American institution which the American people, who finance it, have a right to know about.

"The premise of this book is that even in a time of Cold War, the United States Government must rest, in the words of the Declaration of Independence, on 'the consent of the governed'. And there can be no meaningful consent where those who are governed do not know to what they are consenting."


Richard Helms  
Deputy Director for Plans

cc: DDCI ✓  
Mr. Chretien

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MEMORANDUM FOR: *ADP* 

*Deck Helms comments  
on "The Invisible Foot."*



*s/s*  
(DATE)

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# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Deputy Director for Plans

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

4 May 1964

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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